

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: February 12, 2006  
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## WEATHER



A persistent high pressure ridge remained over California for the week. This resulted in dry and mild weather across the Golden State, with record breaking high temperatures reported at many locations. With the storm track diverted to the north, the only variable to the week's weather was the direction of the wind flow across the State. By midweek, a weak weather disturbance moving well north of California resulted in a surface high pressure area settling over the intermountain region of Idaho and western Montana. This resulted in an offshore flow which brought very warm and dry conditions to the State, particularly to southern California, where the wildfire danger became extreme. The week ended with the dry and mild conditions continuing through the weekend.

## FIELD CROPS

Applications of herbicides for weed control and irrigation were ongoing in many **wheat** and **oat** fields. Forage crops continued to grow well with the unseasonably warm weather. In Fresno County, pre-irrigation and bed preparation were ongoing in many **cotton** fields. **Sugar beet** fields continued to show good growth. Merced County sugar beets continued to be treated for voles. Herbicides were being applied to **alfalfa** hay fields in order to control weeds and burn back winter growth. In Merced County, dormant herbicide applications to alfalfa were almost complete, as well as ground preparation for spring planting.

## FRUIT CROPS

Pruning, shredding, and general maintenance work was ongoing in **grape** vineyards and stone fruit orchards. Many grape growers were also disking rows and applying herbicides for weed control. Buds continued to swell in many orchards, and blooms were spotted in early stone fruit varieties in the San Joaquin Valley. Dormant sprays and herbicide applications continued in stone fruit orchards in a last minute effort to finish before full bloom. The harvesting of Navel **oranges**, **tangelos**, **pummelos**, **lemons**, **mandarins**, and **tangerines** was ongoing. The Navel market continued to bend under the weight of a large crop. Growers were having trouble with small sizes, rind breakdown, and poor domestic prices. Pack-outs were also very low. Applications of copper, lime, and zinc were ongoing in order to control fungal disease as well as to comply with export requirements. Several growers were also applying foliar feed to citrus orchards. **Olive** trees continued to be pruned.

## NUT CROPS

Many early **almond** orchards were in bloom. Replanting of nut orchards remained underway. Pruning and dormant sprays continued in nut orchards as field conditions permitted.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers were performing ground preparation activities in the warm, dry weather. **Tomato** and **garlic** beds were being prepared for early plantings. Some **lettuce** fields were treated for aphids and lygus bugs, while other lettuce and **onion** fields were weeded and thinned. Processing onions continued to be planted, and previously planted fields were growing well. **Broccoli**, **lettuce**, green house vegetables, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, and **radicchio** were harvested. Cool season Asian vegetables including **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **yu choy**, **gailon**, **daikon**, **napa cabbage** and **sugar pea leaf** were also reported harvested.

## LIVESTOCK

Unseasonably warm temperatures, combined with ample soil moisture in many areas, created excellent pasture conditions on California's winter foothill pastures. In some central areas with shallower soil, rain was badly needed. Supplemental feeding of cattle was rare. Stocking of foothill pastures with cattle was complete. Fall calves were being branded. Lambs were beginning to ship from alfalfa pastures in the Imperial Valley, but most lambs have not sold due to poor market conditions. Many of the earlier shipments of Imperial Valley lambs were by sellers retaining ownership, and the lambs were destined for feedlots in Colorado. In central and north central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired crop land. Some ewes and lambs have been moved to foothill pastures. Dairies were drying out, and milk production has been good due to the warm weather. The placement of beehives in almond and stone fruit orchards continued.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/12/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/12/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/12/06	January 1 - 02/12/06	Week Ending 02/12/06	July 1 - 02/12/06	July 1 - 02/12/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	1	66	36	0	0	0.03	44.86	24.08	37.53
Ukiah	55	5	76	34	0	0	0.00	28.94	25.33	37.96
Santa Rosa	56	5	75	36	0	0	0.00	27.05	20.04	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	57	5	73	44	0	0	0.00	14.40	12.98	19.70
San Jose	58	5	74	42	1	0	0.00	9.23	9.31	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	9.18	14.21
Salinas AP	60	8	81	41	8	0	0.01	5.81	7.75	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	6	79	44	5	0	0.00	5.80	9.59	18.72
King City	58	7	86	33	2	0	0.00	6.27	7.16	11.44
Paso Robles AP	55	6	81	31	0	0	0.00	6.80	7.91	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	57	9	80	36	0	0	0.00	28.54	21.49	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	57	7	79	35	0	0	0.00	18.34	15.15	22.29
Chico AFS	56	7	77	37	0	0	0.00	17.44	16.54	26.32
Marysville	53	3	72	35	0	0	0.00	16.56	14.10	21.04
Sacramento AP	54	4	72	36	0	0	0.00	13.06	11.47	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	54	4	71	36	0	0	0.01	8.84	8.69	13.95
Fresno	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.23	6.52	10.60
Bakersfield	56	4	77	36	0	0	0.00	2.46	3.69	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	57	5	85	33	4	0	0.00	8.57	8.06	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	3	81	35	2	0	0.01	7.61	10.27	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	59	0	0.00	0.00	9.47	14.38
Los Angeles	65	5	85	48	72	0	0.00	4.95	8.84	14.77
Riverside	64	9	87	41	74	0	0.00	1.97	6.23	9.58
San Diego AP	62	3	80	48	30	0	0.00	1.39	6.35	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	46	5	70	16	0	0	0.00	5.51	3.19	5.37
Lancaster	49	2	76	22	0	0	0.00	3.63	4.85	6.92
Daggett AP	55	2	79	31	2	0	0.00	0.84	2.93	3.93
Thermal AP	61	3	87	33	34	0	0.00	2.08	2.72	3.16
Blythe	62	4	84	39	38	0	0.00	2.20	3.19	3.60
Imperial	62	2	85	40	38	0	0.00	1.40	2.37	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	39	7	61	18	0	0	0.00	9.60	6.61	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	7	66	24	0	0	0.00	33.83	24.53	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	17	64	49	0	0	0.00	47.26	40.98	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	4.79	23.81	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes ( - ) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.